

**Meralco starts refund of meter deposits**

**TV host loses P3M in jewelry to burglars**

**How to clear the energy in your hotel room**

**2008 worst year for China in recent times, says premier**

**Now Balante goes to Court of Appeals to stave off arrest**



**After cheap rice, now comes 'P10 Budget Ulam'**



By Amy R. Rene  
AFTER MAKING YOU EN-  
joy long queues for  
cheap rice, they hope  
you'll come back for the  
cheap ulam.  
A food company  
AFTER A21

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS.  
Tuesday, November 4, 2008 • 8 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 573 P18  
www.inquirer.com

**Oil firms lower price of LPG by P4/kilogram**

By Abigail L. Iba  
SHED'S GOOD NEWS FOR HOUSEHOLDS  
struggling to make ends meet amid the  
rising cost of living.  
Following the lead that cooking gas  
dealers set last weekend, the country's  
major oil firms slashed the price of their  
liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) also by P4  
08, PAPER A11

# Chaos feared in US vote

## Dirty tricks heighten concerns of execs

WASHINGTON—ARMIES OF VOLUNTEERS, lawyers and federal agents will fan out across the United States for Tuesday's elections amid mounting fears a record turnout will overload the voting system, sparking a ballot-box meltdown.

And an onslaught of dirty tricks—including e-mails, disturbing phone calls and intimidating them left on doorsteps during the night—is adding to the concerns of poll officials.

Memories of the bitter 2000 election battle between George W. Bush and Al Gore, which was decided in the Supreme Court,

still haunt Americans, and many believe that system adopted in its wake have merely complicated the process.

Long lines have already been seen in many battleground states which have held early voting ahead of Tuesday's White House duel between Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain.

This trend is expected to continue on Tuesday, with many more being forced to wait for hours to cast their ballots.

And with many more having dispensed with paper ballots after the Florida fiasco, there are concerns now over whether there will be enough trustworthy voting machines and if so whether they will stand up to the pressure.

Civil rights groups and Internet savvy watchdogs have organized thousands of volunteers to help voters encountering any difficulties, as well as to video in real time any problems and upload onto the Net.

Some 800 federal observers are also being dispatched by the Department of Justice to 59 hot spots in 23 states.

Of particular concern are young voters, many of whom are voting for the first time and who may not have on hand all the documents they need.

"We are going to work very hard to make sure every vote is counted," said Stephanie Young, communications secretary with Rock the Vote, a non-partisan group set up to encourage youth political participation.

Like other groups, Rock the Vote



UNDETERRED by long queues, many Americans cast their votes well ahead of Election Day on Nov. 4 in US states that allow early voting. Hundreds gathered on the front lawn of a school library in Florida on Monday, waiting to be part of a historic presidential race.

## Obama stands on threshold of history



FINAL PUSH: Democrat Barack Obama (left) and Republican John McCain wrap up a frenzied day of campaigning in battleground states, hoping to win over undecided voters ahead of Tuesday's presidential election. Obama is mobbed in Ohio while McCain rallies supporters in Florida.

WASHINGTON—BARACK OBAMA stood on the threshold of history Monday as polls gave the Democrats a mild lead over Republican John McCain as the last day of campaigning for the most dramatic US presidential vote in a generation.

As the Obama senior drew massive crowds to some of his final campaign rallies, Americans appeared likely to cap the longest, most expensive White House campaign ever by electing him as the first Black US president on Tuesday.

The final pre-election poll of Gallup-USA Today published on Monday gave Obama a jumping lead of 11 points—55 percent to 44 for McCain. The poll was conducted Friday through Sunday among 3,050 adults, and had a margin of error of 2 percent.

"It would take an improbable last-minute shift in voter preferences, or a huge Republican advantage in election-day turnout, for McCain to improve enough again to produce shade of the vote ... to overcome his deficit to Obama," the pollster said.

A new Wall Street Journal-NBC News poll also put Obama ahead, 51 percent to 49. CNN's latest poll on Sunday had Obama with a 33-46 percent edge, and a Washington Post-NBC News poll gave him 54 percent to 46.

Obama leads also in the battleground states where the election will be won and lost, including

## 6 more 'euro officers' return travel money

By Terra Quinsanda

AFTER FRUSTRATING THE EYES OF THE media, six police officials who traveled to Russia last month yesterday headed their chief's orders and returned P1.32 million in travel allowances.

The amount was part of the P2.59 million released to six police officers who traveled to Russia last month yesterday headed their chief's orders and returned P1.32 million in travel allowances.

However, were on top of the P6.9 million that various officials in Moscow had received from Elmo de la Paz, then a PNT director and comptroller.

The PNT Finance Service yesterday collected refunds from De la Paz (now retired), Deputy Director General Emmanuel Gars (the PNT's second top man and head of obligated) and General Edmundo, Director of

## Only 67% of Fil-Ams are likely to vote in presidential election

By Blanche S. Rios  
GlobeTribune

SAN FRANCISCO—FOR TWO months, President Obama, a Filipino-American man in Washington D.C., had been citing John McCain's edge in experience over Democrat Barack Obama as the reason she was inclined to go Republican.

But on Oct. 3, Rios, a first-time voter in America, regis-

tered as a Democrat.

Like most young Filipino-Americans, Rios has been seduced by Obama's slogan of change at a critical time in US history.

"Well, if you change your mind, you can always vote for who you want even if you are a registered Democrat or Republican," she said.

Rios' remarks appear to support one of the findings of the first-ever National Asian

American Survey (NAAS) conducted in August/September. Released last week says the survey says one in three Filipino-Americans has yet to decide on whom to vote for president.

The survey also shows that despite their numbers, only 67 percent of Filipino-Americans are likely to vote in Tuesday's US elections, compared with 82 percent for whites.

## Heirs of unsung heroes awarded scholarships

By Christine V. Espinosa

TIME WAS RUNNING OUT AND no more options for police officer Rodolfo Lacerda during a hostage incident in Makati City 15 years ago.

So she dressed up as a radio reporter in a desperate attempt to close the episode of a woman and a 3-year-old boy. Her risk was rewarded with the release of the victims, but not after the hostage-taker had snatched her to death.

That same year, mother Teresa Dodon was on her way to Sabán in Benguet for her routine post-to-clear inheritance document. She never got

there, but life miraculously ended by a speeding bus on the highway.

These and more stories of everyday heroes once made the headlines, but have barely crossed the memories, short Filipino memory.

More than a decade later, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) hopes to bring their stories back to national consciousness through a program benefiting those they have left behind—their children especially.

"Nowadays when it is hard to attack the government with all sorts of figures, we see this occasion as a time to



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo meets members of the Philippine Singing Ambassadors during Monday's launch of Pansang Lingkod Bayan Fund and Scholarship Program for outstanding civil servants.

## WEATHER FORECAST

Forecast issued at 5:00 AM. The weather forecast for the Philippines is based on the latest available information and is subject to change. For more information, visit [www.pagasa.gov.ph](http://www.pagasa.gov.ph).

Area	Forecast	Area	Forecast
Manila	Partly Cloudy	Baguio	Partly Cloudy
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Iloilo	Partly Cloudy	Marikina	Partly Cloudy
Quezon	Partly Cloudy	San Jose	Partly Cloudy
Surigao	Partly Cloudy	Tarlac	Partly Cloudy
Visayas	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Western Visayas	Partly Cloudy		
Eastern Visayas	Partly Cloudy		

# Second FRONT PAGE

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# Bolante goes to CA for relief

## Son seeks writ of habeas corpus to win pa's release from Senate custody

By Norman Bernabe, Christine O. Acandado and Julia M. Aurelio

**FORMER AGRICULTURE UNDERSECRETARY JOSEPH "BOC-BOC" BOLANTE** yesterday filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the Court of Appeals seeking his release from Senate custody.

The 15-page petition, filed by his son Owen, said that the Senate's order of arrest in the USA Congress had no legal effect and that the Senate acted on improper grounds and in violation of the constitution.

The petition urged the court to issue a writ of habeas corpus directing the Senate to release Bolante before a "fair and impartial hearing" to decide the arrest and detention unlawful.

Bolante, alleged witness of the election to President Macapagal-Arroyo's 2004 election campaign of P20 million in foreign subsidies, was arrested by the Senate

senators on June 10, 2006, after he was arrested in Manila but he was released on June 11, 2006, after he was released on June 11, 2006.

He had been detained for two years in the United States and was deported last week after his petition for asylum on grounds his life was in danger in the Philippines was dismissed by immigration officials.

### Hearing next week

Bolante's lawyer Antonio Zabala earlier filed a petition in the Supreme Court questioning the legality of the Senate arrest order for Bolante's failure to attend his hearings in 2005, and asked that a temporary

restraining order be issued against Bolante.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano said yesterday the Senate blue ribbon committee will hold hearings on the Bolante case later next week. He said he expected his involvement from the Supreme Court following the required publication of the Senate rules for the 14th Congress.

He also said the Senate would by then be able to assess the medical fitness of Bolante.

### Going by the book

"We will respect and observe anything the Supreme Court will tell us to do," he said. "We will follow the law and the constitution. If there is no temporary restraining order issued and we are not expecting a TRO because previously we're doing everything by the book," Cayetano said.

He was referring to the conviction of Sen. Ruperto Romualdez that the high court should determine whether the Senate or the Department of Justice had jurisdiction over a habeas corpus petition following the issuance of a final report by the previous Senate committee that voted into the bill for the arrest.

Cayetano dismissed an "Asian watchdog" Bolante's latest report petition.

"The Senate was the one to act on itself of the contempt and arrest order is a simple matter to the Senate," he said. "Why is it so complicated?"

Yesterday Sen. Joker Arroyo, then chair of the blue ribbon committee which together with then Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.'s agricultural committee investigated the fertilizer fund scam in 2005, threw his support behind Arroyo.

Arroyo contended that the arrest order issued by the Senate during the 13th Congress "was no longer in effect," it is legally defunct.

"The same issue is now again in the Department of Justice. The Senate has done its job," Arroyo said.

### Birthday wish

In a touchy news conference, Cayetano, who turned 36 on Oct. 29, said his birthday wish was for the Senate to come out in the same. "Since Bolante returned home near his birthday, we wish it to be the same," he said.

Cayetano issued a letter to the Department of Justice that although the "border had been closed" he would be closed without the testimony of his

son and implementation.

"Even if this is a final report, this committee is opening that order to the Senate for the Senate to act on," he said.

Cayetano also said the Senate was conducting its probe in aid of legislation while the Ombudsman's job was criminal prosecution. Doctors said Bolante would have to undergo tests to see if he had any health problems.

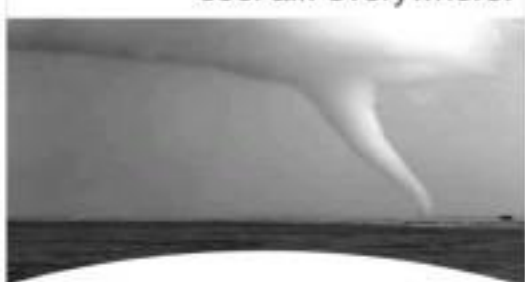
### More medical tests

In a medical bulletin, Sen. Lito Lapid said Bolante would have to undergo an MRI and MRA of the brain after he completed his medical tests after a seven-day

hospital stay. Lapid said Bolante would have to undergo a CT scan of the abdomen and chest CT angiography.

Findings reveal the presence of multiple gastric ulcers, esophagitis and chronic gastritis, which would require the 11-year-old Bolante to be hospitalized in the hospital. The findings would be the basis for the

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# Don't come back yet, Sabio told

**JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ** yesterday asked President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to "Good Government" officials on how Carlos Duterte delay his return to his post pending his investigation by the Department of Justice and the bar confessions.

Sabio went on leave after the

Supreme Court asked a Court of Appeals magistrates, presided a few others and ordered Sabio's investigation by the DOJ and the bar confessions in connection with the bribery scandal that rocked the upper office.

The DOJ chair was accused of setting up his brother, CA Jus-

tice Jose Sabio, to probe the government position in the Manila co-ops dispute.

"(Sabi) I consider that, legally, there is no impediment for you to resume your duties as DOJ chair, nonetheless, should you assume your duties, it may appear to the public mind that you may

have certain inherent biases or interests in the investigation to pursue," Gonzales said in his memo to Sabio.

Sabio returned to the DOJ on Friday. Yesterday, he attended his flag-raising ceremony. "It is in this case that I ask you to give at least 30 days for the in-

vestigation to be concluded before resuming the chairmanship of the DOJ," Gonzales said.

Sabio said if the DOJ would be able to complete its investigation of Sabio in 30 days, Gonzales said. "Good, more justice for the people," Secretary of Justice and Father C. Gomez Jr.

## Project Management Professional Review Program

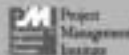
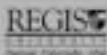
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# Obama or McCain? Who cares, say Pinoys

By Gil Calacagan Jr.

**WILL US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS BE better with next US President Barack Obama or Republican John McCain in the White House?**

Two Filipino congressmen said the question was preposterous considering that Philippine officers were hardly the priority of a congressman like the United States.

"The matter who wins, the US government will always decide on what is best for the United States," said Deputy Minority Speaker Raula Golea.

House Ethics Rep. Eduardo Serrano Jr. said Philippine should not harbor any bias since that the Philippines would be free from either an Obama or McCain victory.

## No expectations

"We should have no expectations. Each country is on his own, especially when the national interest is involved. No benefits can be expected in terms of trade or in the war versus terrorism because economic and foreign policies do not change regardless of who is who in the White House," Serrano said.

## Is there a reason?

This was what majority of Pinoys said when asked: "Do you think it would be better for the Philippines if Barack Obama or John McCain wins the US presidential election?"

## Outcome won't matter

According to the Third Quarter 2008 Social Trends Survey, an overwhelming 76 percent—of those out of four Filipinos—said the outcome of the US election would not matter in the Philippines.

On the other hand, those who thought the US election would have an impact on the country preferred Obama to McCain. The survey said, 30.13 percent said it would be "better for RP if Barack Obama wins" and 9 percent said it would be "better for RP if John McCain wins." Only 3 percent answered they "don't know."

Most Pinoys have been consistently indifferent in the past two US elections, despite the Philippines being a former US colony.

## More neutral now

"Pinoys are more neutral about the 2008 US presidential election than they were in 2004," the Social Trends Survey said in a statement released yesterday.

In an 1999 August 2004 survey, 63 percent said it did not matter who won between George W. Bush and John Kerry while 25 percent preferred Bush and 9 percent preferred Kerry.

In the latest 1999 survey, a neutral view of the 2008 US presidential election was more evident in Mindanao (79 percent), Luzon outside Metro Manila (76 percent) and the Visayas (77 percent), than in Metro Manila (54 percent).

A neutral opinion was also prevalent among those 18-30 (69 percent) and class D (72 percent) than among classes ABC (56 percent).

In terms of educational attainment, neutrality was higher among non-elementary school graduates (78 percent), elementary graduates (81 percent), and high school graduates (74 percent) than college graduates (56 percent).

## Metro Manila for Obama

Obama was the top choice of those in Metro Manila (21 percent) compared to 13 percent who preferred McCain, among classes ABC (24 percent) compared to 7 percent who preferred McCain and college graduates (11 percent) compared to 13 percent who preferred McCain.

Interest in the US presidential race was also limited, with only one in four Pinoys or 25 percent saying they closely followed news about the American elections in the past three months.

## Follow other news

Most Pinoys followed the news on the fighting in Mindanao (39 percent), the pushback by the Supreme Court of some justices of the Court of Appeals (40 percent), and the election from President George W. Bush to Barack Obama (39 percent).

The survey was conducted on Sept. 24-27 using face-to-face interviews of 1,500 adults in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao with a sampling margin error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. IPS-Inquirer Research.

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ASPIRING FOR A KNOCKOUT Two superstars wear masks of Barack Obama and John McCain in a mock confrontation organized by a coordinator in London. Obama is a heavy favorite in the battle to win the US presidential election.

# Democrat Obama stands on threshold of history

**Fromagoda**  
Obedience in class such as Virginia and North Carolina has been met by a Democratic hopeful in a decade.  
A series of historic events have unfolded on Monday also showed Obama leading in all of eight battleground states, including Florida and Ohio, the other big prize.  
**What is back?**  
But McCain, a former prisoner of war in Vietnam, was defiant and vowed to continue the political and economic recovery from Obama's grasp.  
"The Man is back! And we're going to win this election," McCain said to cheering cheers as he wrapped up a farewell day of campaigning with a heavily litigative rally in Miami in the early hours of Monday.  
The 47-year-old Obama crossed the historic nation of his quest.  
"This is a defining moment in our history," Obama wrote in an article published in The Wall Street Journal. "Remember, I ask you to write our nation's next great chapter."  
**Arising is coming?**  
Obama started confidence in a huge crowd gathered in front of the Cleveland in the grand state of Ohio. He took to the stage after a meeting at front center from Springfield that ended with the campaign's victory "No No."  
"It's time to rise," Obama said to 80,000 supporters in Cleveland.  
An earlier rally in Columbus, Ohio, drew 60,000 people.  
**250 electoral votes**  
With the victory in control and the approval of President George W. Bush, a Republican, at least 200 votes, Democrats have high hopes for only of capturing the White House, but also expanding their numbers in both chambers of Congress.  
A victory would mark a turning point for Obama, who was little known nationally before being elected as a senator from Illinois four years ago. He began running for president less than two years later.  
Obama has capitalized on anti-Republican sentiment, linking McCain to the unpopular Bush. McCain's campaign has tried to cast Obama as an inexperienced, untested and too narrow by association with military characters.  
The electoral map clearly favors Obama. He needed a candidate must win at least 276 of the 538 electoral votes distributed to states equally in proportion to their people. In most cases, the candidate who wins a plurality of votes in a state wins all of that state's electoral votes.  
Obama is favored to win all the states Democrats captured in 2004, where Bush defeated him. John McCain, that would give him 251 votes, for a leading role in presidential state won by Bush, giving him several possibilities for reaching the 270 votes—winning a big Bush state like Ohio or Florida, or a combination of smaller ones.  
**State to watch: Pennsylvania**  
Obama campaign manager David Plouffe said the Democrats had expanded the electoral map by aggressively campaigning in traditional Republican states like Virginia, Colorado and Nevada.  
"We did not want to wake up on the morning of Nov 4 wanting for one vote. We wanted a lot of different ways to win this election," Plouffe said on television.  
McCain has to hold on to as many Bush states as possible and try to capture Pennsylvania, a swing state, or a loss in Ohio, Florida or Virginia, would make it statistically unlikely he could collect the 270 votes.  
Bush leads, McCain's campaign managers said. Pennsylvania would be "the most important swing state" on Tuesday.  
McCain planned to return to Pennsylvania before heading home to Arizona on election day.  
**Uncertainties to consider**  
There are still many uncertainties that could affect Tuesday's outcome—including how many traditionally Democratic swing states Obama becomes of his own, whether Obama's candidacy will spark a huge boom in voting by African-Americans and young people, and which side will do the best job getting out the vote.  
Also, adding to the uncertainty is the early voting allowed in some states. About 27 million Americans and early voters were cast in 30 states as of Tuesday night, more than ever. Democrats outnumbered Republicans in pre-election day voting in key states.  
The two Democrats—and even some Republicans—privately questioning whether McCain can outpace Obama, even if Republicans run out of horses on Tuesday.  
Obama has had a huge fundraising advantage over McCain, but McCain and the Republican Party successfully stepped up their spending in the campaign's final days and now are matching Obama at the end, if not exceeding him, in key battleground states.  
Toppled, the two presidential candidates have amassed nearly \$1 billion—a astronomical number in a campaign of several-hundred million members, depending on context, \$1 billion means nearly 10 for every presidential vote, compared with \$1.50 in 2004.  
The campaigns were using the money for a variety of television ads and phone calls targeting voters in swing states.  
**Poll factor**  
A CBS/Optima Research Corporation poll recently reported that McCain's mounting state, South Dakota, may be swinging down the Republican's chances. The survey showed that McCain had 45 percent support among people questioned, but support for McCain and Palin as a unit was lower, at 40 percent.  
The Adams survey, 75, said the polls had been wrong before, and would be given wrong again after Tuesday. Reports from AP and Reuters.



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# Only 67% of Fil-Ams are likely For Fil-Ams, voting a matter of faith to vote in presidential election

By Rajan Datta Santos

percent among Japanese-Americans, 73 percent among Indian-Americans and 72 percent among Russian-Americans.

Filipino-Americans make up the third largest Asian-American bloc, accounting for 14 percent of the 14.5 million Asian-Americans in the United States, while the Chinese (24 percent) and Indians (20 percent).

"These people don't even like to vote as long they have someone (among the results) and if they don't want to do anything on the day of the election," said Henry Manalang, chair of the Philippine-American Democratic Caucus (PADC) in California and its San Miguel City chapter.

While some "average Filipinos" in the United States don't vote, Democrats in Congress, Manalang said, will have to get them to place their candidates on the ballot.

The biggest challenge for Manalang's group then is to get Filipino-Americans to show up at the polls.

## Links to the motherland

Despite the high rates of assimilation of Filipinos in America—over 60 percent of nearly 4 million Filipino-Americans are naturalized citizens—there has been half a century to vote or actually vote during elections, according to Filipino community leaders in the Bay Area and Philadelphia, Pa.

"They're not quite ready to identify themselves as Fil-Am. The emotional attachment to the Philippines is still strong. They still think of themselves as Filipinos rather than Americans," said Jim McGrigor, communications director of the National Federation of Philippine American Associations (NFPAA).

"They are more interested in Philippine politics, news and events here," he said. This is what NFPAA is trying to change.

The NFPAA, a nonpartisan, nonprofit network of over 100 organizations and its affiliates, hosted a national congress last conference in September to encourage participation in civic and political activities.

This means getting them out to vote and support Filipino running for local posts, providing aid to the "immigrant mentality" looking them more closely to the Philippines than in America and "getting them to the motherland."

"What we want to happen is get Filipino involved in the US political process, in campaigns, in all aspects of US society and become Americans," McGrigor said.

## Ties between two localities

He said the NFPAA wanted to address the reality of Filipino-Americans, particularly those who migrated from the 1960s onward who are still seen as being Filipino loyal to the Philippines and being Americans.

This has proven difficult as these Filipino-Americans and naturalized immigrants account for 30 percent of the Philippine-American population in America, said McGrigor, who has lived in both for 40 years.

"Even if they have been here for a long time, they still view the Philippines as their country, which is understandable (but) ... it's a bad thing," he said.

"As Fil-Am, you are primarily citizens of this country as you vote for the US president, not the Philippine president. So you still have local officials running for state (posts), not the congressmen in the Philippines."

The NFPAA, however, found that being involved in home country politics was "not a detour" to being involved in American politics. In fact, it said, Asian-Americans who participate in their home-country politics are also more likely to vote in the US elections.

"Indeed, our results suggest that participation in one context may decrease participation in the other," according to the survey done by experts from University of California Berkeley, University of California Riverside, University of Southern California and Rutgers University in New Jersey.

## Unused power

Still, despite their sizeable voting population, there are few Filipino-Americans who have been elected to important positions in government—just, McGrigor said, of those little Filipino-American state political participation.

The highest post a Filipino has been elected to is governor of Hawaii, where there are more Filipinos than in any other state, except California. That was over a decade ago, when Benjamin Cayetano checked Hawaii's top executive post in 1998.

There are Filipino-Americans in the state legislatures like Maryland's Chelcie Adams, in the House, like Otto Solis, Steve Austin, and in the House of Representatives, like Virginia Rep. Robert Scott—but still not enough to be considered political representation of Filipino-Americans.

"We have not broken that glass ceiling. We hope to break that, maybe in California, because it has the population. It's just the timing and the candidates," said Manalang. A White House spokeswoman on data said the Asian-American during the time of former President Bill Clinton.

NFPAA's priority now is to encourage more Filipino-Americans to run and then get the community to support them.

"We believe we got Filipinos to run, we have to get them to vote," Manalang said.

The NFPAA survey of 4,204 adult Asian-Americans also shows that 34 percent of Filipino-Americans were still "anxious" of their choice for president, 33 percent said they would vote for Obama and 30 percent for McCain.

The extent of their uneasiness—34 percent—is substantial enough to possibly the swing vote in now-up polls.

[This article is part of a series of stories on Filipino-Americans issues that the writer, a former reporter of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, is doing as a freelance media fellow at the University of South Florida's Center for the People's Will.]

NEW YORK—SARAH MYERS, 62, is taking her day off as a housekeeper of an upscale Manhattan apartment today, but unlike her other Tuesdays, she plans more than run million-dollar American automobiles on sale for the very US president.

"This is my second time to vote for president and I'm excited," Myers, a retired Italian who immigrated to the United States in 1992, said in a mix of English and Tagalog. "Although this year, the election seems crucial."

With a reliable work schedule, low consumer confidence, record unemployment and an ongoing mortgage foreclosure, the stakes are high in choosing who between Barack Obama and John McCain can lead the economy away from its stumbling recovery.

"The economy is in a bad state these days," Myers said, adding the economy is her top priority. A former black teacher in Manila, Myers works in the city five days a week and spends the rest in a suburban house in Long Island where she lives and shares a 14-year mortgage on it with her son and his family.

The worries about other immigrant families who are just starting to finance their first home. "True if salaries are high, when one family member loses a job, it would be difficult to meet mortgage payments," she said.

In Queens, a neighborhood heavily populated by Filipino immigrants, Myers's sentiments are clearly shared. "Business is slow," griped the Amante, 65, a hair salon owner on Roosevelt Avenue. "Customers come for just a simple hair cut or, maybe, do not come at all,"

she said and her mostly Filipino clients told.

"I am more excited about my job than my hair these days," said Cristobal Tapia, 31, an assistant who was recently hired at a nearby publishing house. "Being new in a job in a bad economy is not exactly reassuring."

In a Gallup Poll released last month, Filipino-Americans preferred McCain over Obama by 65 percentage points. According to the poll, 44 percent of Fil-Ams approved of the current US leadership.

But for many Filipino-Americans, the preference is a matter of faith. "Most Filipino-American voters, especially under ones who belong to the older generation, have more anchored an Christian beliefs," explained Philippine American Press Club president Charles Sanpagan.



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Editor: Raul G. Diopang

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# P.5M reward for robbers in cops' uniform

## PNP forms 4 tracker teams to go after armed men in heists

By Marko Reyes

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION POLICE OFFICE (NCRO) has offered a P500,000 reward to anybody who can help them capture the members of a gang of robbers who pose either as soldiers or policemen.

NCRO chief Director Adolfo Arce yesterday said he has also formed four tracker teams specifically tasked to go after the group.

Each team, he added, would be composed of experienced intelligence officers and investigators from the NCRO. He said the five police divisions under his command would also deploy their more experienced men to go after the robbers.

"With this operational plan, we are optimistic that we can neutralize

these criminal elements in time," Arce was told by reporters.

He said that 70% of the reward money would come from Philippine National Police Director General Juan Ynesena, while the rest would be donated by "friends of the PNP."

"The reward money is expected to speed up the neutralization of these criminal elements in that the people of Metro Manila can enjoy a relatively peaceful holiday season this December," Ynesena said.

Sup. Romeo S. Blandin, NCRO spokesperson, said in initial investigations they traced the robbers even "not just as policemen or military personnel but had non criminal elements."

"The reward money was raised with the hope that knowledge of the public who has knowledge of the whereabouts of these criminals will be motivated to tell the group's whereabouts," Blandin said.

Seaton, who grivled over a string of missing confidence and operations officers of the different NCRO units yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo Drive, Tagay City, told they were told that the robbers also venerated business establishments in Binay and Ayala centers.

He added that the robbers

belong to three criminal syndicates, including the Raposo-Gonzalez Group. The three groups are believed to be behind at least 13 robberies in Metro Manila over February.

"Members of these groups usually combine to form a new group like in operation. They disband and return to their original gang right after the robbery," Seaton said.

Yesterday's meeting was held several days after 32 heavily armed men disguised as policemen killed 30

Subic Bay City College students, Manila.

The incident occurred a week after a group of robbers, who also disguised themselves as lawmen, held up the Light Rail Transit Authority office in Marikina City.

Apparently lured by the series of unprovoked armed incidents involving robbers posing as policemen, Seaton mentioned another robbery in Manila would result in the issuance of order to the police officers considered in charge of the case.



PRAYING FOR A MIRACLE

Grace Dela Encarnacion, a professor at the University of the Philippines, performs a dance ritual to pray for the survival of religious that spearheaded the change of power on October 10 in Marikina, Manila, their church in 1993.

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BMW 116i Executive	8008017	Spotting Grey	2008	080	7.1	2,800	1,880,000	1,850,000
BMW 218i Sport	A138014	Alfa White	2007	140	8.0	1,900	1,880,000	1,800,000
BMW 218i Sport	A138009	Black Sapphire	2007	022	5.4	3,000	1,880,000	1,700,000
BMW 218i Sport	A138015	Spotting Grey	2007	104	5.2	4,500	1,880,000	1,800,000
BMW 218i Sport	A138013	Black Sapphire	2007	140	8.0	4,500	1,880,000	1,800,000
BMW 320i Coupe	P111905	Mineral Blue	2005	003	10.0	5,000	1,880,000	1,800,000
BMW 320i Coupe	C000046	Thematic Silver	2007	104	5.0	4,000	1,880,000	1,740,000
BMW 320i Coupe	C000047	Thematic Silver	2007	071	11.0	8,000	1,880,000	1,800,000
BMW 320i Touring	C001013	Space Grey	2006	020	10.0	4,000	1,880,000	1,800,000
BMW 320i Touring	C000400	Black Sapphire	2007	100	4.0	4,500	1,880,000	1,840,000
BMW 320i Touring	C000019	Black Sapphire	2007	060	5.4	4,500	1,780,000	1,740,000
BMW 320i Touring	D178070	Mineral Blue	2006	070	8.0	3,500	1,880,000	1,840,000
BMW X3 3.0i	PY03071	Melbourne Red	2007	111	8.0	6,000	1,880,000	1,800,000
BMW X3 3.0i	9000088	Black Sapphire	2006	007	5.4	8,000	1,880,000	1,800,000
BMW X5 3.0i Executive	1000100	Thematic Silver	2006	200	7.1	9,000	3,800,000	3,700,000









# The World

Editor: LUISER B. SORIANO

## 2008 worst year for China in recent times, says PM

**BEIJING**—CHINESE PREMIER WEN JIABAO said the global economic crisis had made 2008 the worst year for China's development in recent history, and warned of worse to come.

His assessment, in a report made in a journal published by the Communist Party, came as China struggles with its slowing growth in the year.

"We must be aware that this year is the worst in recent times for our economic development," Wen said in the article.

"The global financial turmoil and the economic downturn are getting worse, furthering economic recession here in world oil prices are still at a high level despite some corrections."

"All these negative factors have affected and will continue to affect China," he warned.

China's growth slowed in the first quarter of this year, the latest sign in a figure down the middle of 2008, partly due to a slowdown in exports.

The country's trade surplus for the first nine months of the year reached \$198.9 billion, down 2.6 percent year-on-year, according to customs data.

Sperio said Wen's article, targeting mostly the cities, aimed to prepare officials who still hold strong views about how badly China would be affected in the near-term scenario amid the global financial crisis.

"It is probably to remind us to remind everyone that (the financial crisis) may be more serious and last longer than previously imagined," he said, adding, "It is a challenge to the government to deal with it."

He said some recent policies, including cutting interest rates three times in less than two



CHINA Prime Minister Wen Jiabao

or months, are mainly fire-fighting. "These policies probably risk that the government will lose the people in the policy-making body more than they gain them."

Wen said maintaining quick growth could "take an even more pessimistic position" among the government's policies.

Meanwhile, he called for a

reoriented focus on inflation, which has emerged as a top policy concern over the past year.

"We should fully grasp the fact that inflation can cause economic growth, people's livelihood and social stability," he said.

The consumer price index rose 4.5 percent year on year in September, compared with a 12-year high of 8.7 percent in February, which was sharply higher than the 4.0 percent target set by the government at the beginning of 2008.

"We should... increase the focus, flexibility and effectiveness of the macro-control policies, so as to maintain a balance between achieving stable and reliable fast economic growth and curbing inflation," Wen said.

In his article, Wen also urged a boost to domestic consumption to reduce the country's dependence on exports and therefore its exposure to external risks.



"THE VISION OF ST. BRUNO" by Italian master Sebastiano Ricci

## Lost 300-year-old Italian painting up for auction

**OMAHA**—A LOST PAINTING by Italian master Sebastiano Ricci has turned up in Texas after a 300-year journey that has seen it change hands from a European nobleman to a player in a Missouri bar and finally to a private collector in a small town.

A wife in the Midwest to read a few letters home had confirmed his belief. It was called "The Vision of St. Bruno," and it was said to be one of the last paintings of the master. It was said to be one of the last paintings of the master. It was said to be one of the last paintings of the master.

With some old-fashioned detective work and help from the family, the painting was found.

It is now up for auction in Omaha.

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## China regulators destroy tons of tainted animal feed

**BEIJING**—CHINESE regulators said over the weekend that they had destroyed more than 3,000 tons of tainted feed intended for livestock, an industry official said.

The feed was found to contain a toxic substance, an industry official said. The feed was found to contain a toxic substance, an industry official said.

In what appeared to be China's biggest food safety crackdown in years, the government also said on Sunday that it had closed 250 food

businesses. And in September, authorities seized 100 tons of illegal feed from a factory in Shandong province.

The aggressive move came after growing worries that the animal feed industry could be contaminated by melamine, a dangerous chemical used in the production of plastic.

In the past week and a half, reports produced in China's government media said that it had closed 250 food

businesses. And in September, authorities seized 100 tons of illegal feed from a factory in Shandong province.

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## US teen pregnancy linked to sexy TV shows, says study

**CHICAGO**—EXPOSURE TO SOME FORMS of entertainment is a surprising influence on children, leading some who watch sex programs late night programs and children who play violent video games to adopt aggressive behavior, researchers said on Monday.

Researchers at the RAND research organization said their three-year study was the

first to link viewing of sex television programming with teen sexual behavior by teens.

"Our findings suggest that television may play a significant role in the high rates of teenage pregnancy in the United States," said Anna Chandra, a behavioral scientist who led the study at RAND, a nonprofit research organization.

"We're not saying we're establishing causation, but we are saying this is one factor that we need to be progressively looking at in the teen pregnancy research," Chandra said.

The researchers surveyed adolescents aged 13 to 17 and surveyed them three times between 2001 and 2004, asking about adolescent dating habits, sexual behavior and pregnancy.

In findings that covered 118 teenagers, there were 151 pregnancies. The top 10% of adolescents who watched the most sex programming were at double the risk of becoming pregnant or causing a pregnancy compared to the 10% who watched the least sex programming, according to the study published in the journal *Pediatrics*.

The study focused on 2001 and 2004, while television programs popular among teenagers include situation comedies, dramas, reality programs and animated shows. Comedies had the most sexual content and reality programs the least.

"The television screen is one of the most powerful influences on the lives of our youth and our responsibility," Chandra said. "So if we are getting any information about sex, it's really getting information about pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases."

Teen pregnancy rates in the United States have declined sharply since 1991, but remain high compared to other industrialized nations. Nearly 1 million girls aged 15 to 19 years old became pregnant, reality or otherwise, 29 percent of sexually active females in that age group. That of the programs was not captured, the report said.

Young mothers are more likely to quit school, require public assistance and live in poverty, it said.

Using a two-part study, Chandra and her colleagues found that the chance of a teen getting pregnant or causing a pregnancy that increases, and that the chance of a teen getting pregnant or causing a pregnancy that increases, and that the chance of a teen getting pregnant or causing a pregnancy that increases.

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## PHILIPPINE CHINESE CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION, INC.

## PHILIPINO-CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC.

## THE FIGHT FOR SAVING NEMENECIA P. ARMIA, A PINAY OFW, FROM DEATH PENALTY CONTINUE

**DR. JAMES G. DY**, Chairman of the Board and President of the Philippine Chinese Charitable Association, Inc., which owns and operates the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center and **MR. FLORANTE DY**, President of the Filipino-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Inc. and a courtesy visit to **Taiwan Economic Culture Office (TECO) Representative DONALD C. T. LEE** regarding plight of **NEMENECIA P. ARMIA**, a pinay OFW, sentenced to the death firing squad in Taiwan.

**Taiwan Economic Culture Office (TECO) Rep. Donald C. T. Lee** who just arrived from Taiwan said that they are doing everything in its power to help save Armia. The Philippine government already submitted an appeal to the Taiwanese court. He cited that Florida Economic & Cultural Office (TECO) also designated a lawyer to represent Mrs. Armia in this proceeding. Taiwanese court will hear Armia's case in the first week of November. On the other hand, TECO has requested via proceeding in order that Armia's relatives could secure faster visas so they can fly to Taiwan and give moral support to her.

**DR. JAMES G. DY** expressed concern over the poverty befalling her OFW on death row. He noted the bravery of Filipino overseas workers who struggle to work abroad for their family in the Philippines. He cited that OFWs are our saving because due to their great help to alleviate our Philippine economy. The amount of dollars received by overseas Filipino workers annually is our great financial source. Thus, we should never hesitate to help these Filipinas in need.

**DR. JAMES G. DY** and **MR. FLORANTE DY** remain hopeful that we will be able to save **NEMENECIA P. ARMIA**. **TECO REP DONALD C. T. LEE** was very regretful over the adverse court ruling but we need to move against time. We need to remain calm and work hard for this case. We are anticipating that there is a change in the court ruling either the sentence or deportation.



Dr. James G. Dy, Chairman of the Board and President of the Philippine Chinese Charitable Association, Inc., with Mr. Florante Dy, President of the Filipino-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Inc., and Donald C. T. Lee, Representative of the Taiwan Economic Culture Office (TECO).







THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008

# Thunder finally create noise, spank T'wolves

OKLAHOMA CITY—IT HADN'T taken long for Russell Westbrook to show the defensive prowess that convinced the Oklahoma City Thunder he was more than their first-round draft pick.

Westbrook spent a combative half with back-to-back assists on the defensive end and then scored the go-ahead basket for the last of his 14 points at the Thunder beat the Minnesota Timberwolves, 88-82, Sunday night for their first victory in their new home.

Westbrook, who earlier sparked a 14-run first half, pulled the Thunder out of a third-quarter deficit. In the decisive fourth with a driving layup that made it 88-85 with 2:17 to play and Oklahoma City support Minnesota on its second foul possession he hung on for the win.

"We're going to have to be scrappy in this game," said Westbrook, the No. 4 overall pick in this year's draft and the first building block in the franchise's defensive overhaul.

Westbrook was hardly the flashy pick so early in the draft, overshadowed by Memphis' Derrick Rose and Boston's Michael Bradley—the first two players taken. Now former teammate Kevin Love, who plays for Minnesota, got more headlines than Westbrook in their new in L.A.

But Westbrook caught his just after the Thunder used to improve on a defense that gave up the fourth-most points in the NBA last season as the league's superstars. After giving up 206 points last season, some of Oklahoma City's first three opponents have even hit triple digits.

The improvement was clear down the stretch, as Minnesota scored only two points in the final 5 minutes. In Al Jefferson's fourth of Sunday's second three-point shot that gave the Timberwolves an 85-84 lead with 2:45 left.

Westbrook answered with his layup at the other end, and Ryan Gomes, Jeff Green and Steve Nash missed their shots as the Timberwolves led before Westbrook hit a buzzer-beating layup that left 35.4 seconds left made it a three-point game.

After a pair of missed free throws by



OKLAHOMA CITY Thunder guard Russell Westbrook goes up for a shot against Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Love. Westbrook hit the Thunder with 18 points.

# Hamilton becomes youngest F1 champ, reduces Massa to tears

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL—LEWIS HAMILTON claimed the 2008 Formula One title on the last lap Sunday, taking a pole on the Red Bull to take 10th place in the Brazilian Grand Prix and beat two-time winner Felipe Massa by a point in the season's season.

The 23-year-old McLaren driver went on to finish fifth or better in all 16 races in his season. He was an underdog to win because F1's reigning champion, the 34-year-old Ferrari driver, had won the last three races. Hamilton was 24 when he won the title in 2008 with Renault.

"I am speechless," Hamilton said. "It's been a long journey in which I had the support of many people. My team did a fantastic job during the whole year and we sacrificed ourselves a lot. I am happy for having shared the life of all of us."

Hamilton's season was not without drama. He was involved in a crash at the start of the season, which cost him a point. He was also involved in a crash at the end of the season, which cost him a point.

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# Tsonga tops Paris, sets sights on Masters

PARIS—HAVING STARTED THE YEAR with a defeat in the Australian Open & lost, the 23-year-old Tsonga ended it with a shot at Masters Cup glory after winning the French Open in May.

Tsonga produced a strong display of winging and shot-making to beat defending champion Novak Djokovic.

Tsonga's win was a surprise, especially after he had lost to Djokovic in the quarterfinals of the French Open. He had also lost to Djokovic in the quarterfinals of the French Open.

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# Radcliffe rules NYC marathon a 3rd time

NEW YORK—DEBRA RADCLIFFE successfully defended her title as the New York City Marathon on Sunday to become the second woman to win the race three times.

Radcliffe won the 26.2-mile race in 2 hours, 23 minutes, 56 seconds. She was the first woman to win the race three times.

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# Drunk Daly spends one night in jail

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA—WITH his goatee and wild hair, Daley was a sight to see in jail. He was a sight to see in jail.

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# Barca, Man U assured of KO round slots

LIVERPOOL—BARCELONA and MANCHESTER UNITED are assured of a place in the knockout rounds of the Champions League.

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# BUSINESS

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**THE NEW Laptops DELL C4100**

See the benefits of the new Dell C4100 laptop. It's the most powerful laptop in its class. It's the most reliable. It's the most secure. It's the most flexible. It's the most powerful. It's the most reliable. It's the most secure. It's the most flexible.

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## Meralco starts deposit refund

But power utility defers 14c/kWh reduction in distribution rate

### INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter to our readers' lives

Over \$180 OFW remittances in '08-'09P  
(2001-2009, in billion US dollars)

Remittances from Filipino workers overseas are expected to reach \$177 billion by the end of this year and \$192.3 billion next year, OFW remittances for the first eight months of the year have reached nearly \$77 billion.



Source: Overseas Office of Meralco Capital Services

With Philippine Institute of Statistics

By Margot L. Ho

THE LOMEX-LED MANILA ELECTRIC CO. has begun issuing meter deposit rebates, ahead of the Energy Regulatory Commission's timetable.

The rebates, originally scheduled for January, should reach P2.8 billion, Meralco officials said. It would start with customers with the lowest monthly consumption.

"They can choose to receive the meter deposit rebate amount in cash if it is P4,000 or less, or in check if it is more than P4,000," Meralco first vice president and

not be included as the distribution utility last Friday filed a motion to defer its EDC as direct refund of another P5.9 billion in overcharges.

Those overcharges were for the company's change in its distribution rate from 2005 to December 2006. The rate was

increased to recover changes in the principal of its foreign currency loans due to exchange rate fluctuations. Meralco says it applied to give back to customers the P2.7 billion it collected, equivalent to 14.5¢ per kWh, over a 12-month

period. Meralco also said it would not include as the distribution utility last Friday filed a motion to defer its EDC as direct refund of another P5.9 billion in overcharges.

## Koreans eye \$250-M Subic resort

By Daniel L. Sarmiento

A KOREAN-LED CONSORTIUM, which includes the Daewoo Group of America, Millennium Development Group, has awarded plans to build a sprawling integrated leisure development in Subic Bay

that is the size of the former US naval base.

In a briefing, officials of the Housing & Property Group said that the entire first phase of the project would cost \$200 million. The project will include a master-planned community, a resort and

**FOREIGN CURRENCIES**

OCTOBER NOVEMBER  
USD-DOLLAR RATE  
P 48.000 = \$ 1  
Stocks: New York, 1, 2008

**STOCK MARKET**

Shares close 2.8% higher

SHARE PRICES SURGED UPWARD last Monday, surging 2.8 percent on continued bargain hunting. Market sentiment was mostly positive from the start of the week, with optimism fueled by expectations of

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Q4 inflation seen easing /B4
- Subsidy for disabled pushed /B6

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# Fertilizer prices seen to dip 30%

By Anyth, Rome

AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS say prices of fertilizers in the U.S. are expected to drop 30 percent this month due to the softening of petroleum prices in the world market.

"With crude oil prices going down, we expect prices of fertilizers to go down too," said Agriculture Secretary John C. Mendenhall. "We should be welcome news for the agriculture sector as farmers will need this input beginning in December to January 2009 for the busy planting season."

## Decline in prices to coincide with start of planting season

Oil prices under fire this year boosted the \$200-per-ton level, resulting in an all-time high of \$1.07 per bushel that would mean prices have increased in the global chemical market since the start of the year.

As a consequence of this movement in petroleum prices, world market rates of petroleum prices have started to fall as well, they said.

In particular, the price of urea fertilizers is expected to go down to \$1.40 per 100-lb bag, or even lower, they said.

At the same time, the price of urea fertilizers is expected to go down to \$1.40 per 100-lb bag, or even lower, they said.

John Mendenhall, who served as a U.S. Agriculture Secretary, said that the price of urea fertilizers is expected to go down to \$1.40 per 100-lb bag, or even lower, they said.

Under the agreement, a 100-lb bag of urea would be sold for \$1.40 per 100-lb bag, or even lower, they said.

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## Koreans eye \$250-M Subic resort

From page B1

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development and construction, to develop the resort's growth targets.

The decline in fertilizer prices is expected to provide more needed relief for farmers who have been seeing from the high cost of fertilizers, which have more than doubled this year compared to a year ago.

With prices dropping, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said it expects that there will be a 30 percent drop in the volume of fertilizer used during the busy planting season.

As a result, officials now expect a significant decline in fertilizer prices.

The high prices of fertilizers also spurred some agricultural subsidies, including

at long-term interest, and not just on a one-time basis.

They added that the cost of fertilizers is expected to drop 30 percent, which is a significant drop from the current level.

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## Coal center

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## PROBLEM SOLVING AND DECISION MAKING, 3 days

February 14 - 16, 2009 and May 19 - 21, 2009  
Executive Classroom (4 days)

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Managers and executives who need to improve their ability to solve problems, make decisions, and implement plans. This course is designed for managers and executives who need to improve their ability to solve problems, make decisions, and implement plans.

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT, 3 days

February 14 - 16, 2009 and May 19 - 21, 2009  
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## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Managers and executives who need to improve their ability to manage projects, make decisions, and implement plans. This course is designed for managers and executives who need to improve their ability to manage projects, make decisions, and implement plans.

## LEAN OFFICE, 3 days

March 23 - 25, 2009 and April 27 - 29, 2009  
Executive Classroom (4 days)

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Managers and executives who need to improve their ability to manage lean office operations, make decisions, and implement plans. This course is designed for managers and executives who need to improve their ability to manage lean office operations, make decisions, and implement plans.

## Inquiries and Reservations

If you're interested in attending a workshop, please call or email us. We'll be happy to help you get the most out of your experience. For more information about our programs, please call or email us. We'll be happy to help you get the most out of your experience.

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Design methods based on using a systematic process that is grounded in research, analysis, and creativity.

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These programs build your management capabilities, implement systematic improvement methods such as the Six Sigma and Lean, and enhance your ability to think logically and act effectively.

## Organize People, Thinking and Action

People are the only real path to organizational success. Effective project management is the difference between being successful and merely surviving.

Implementing KT's Project Management methodology gives your organization a common language and thinking approach to organizing, planning and executing projects. It puts in place the skills and conditions that maximize project success and build commitment to project success.

• Definition • Planning • Implementation • Communication

## LEAN OFFICE builds value by driving out waste

Lean programs offer a proven methodology for continuous improvement of organizational processes. The KT approach to lean drives business success by eliminating critical thinking and waste.

The program incorporates eight modules that help you focus, prioritize, and apply the lean tools to improve quality, control cost, build customer satisfaction, and achieve continuous improvement.

• Definition • Planning • Implementation • Communication

• Definition • Planning • Implementation • Communication

• Definition • Planning • Implementation • Communication

• Definition • Planning • Implementation • Communication

• Definition • Planning • Implementation • Communication

• Definition • Planning • Implementation • Communication

## Meralco starts

From page B1

period, effective this month.

In an urgent notice for distribution, Meralco said that the new rates will be effective this month.

This notice is a response to the U.S. Department of Energy's request for Meralco to provide information on its financial condition.

Meralco said that the new rates will be effective this month.

Meralco said that the new rates will be effective this month.

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Meralco said that the new rates will be effective this month.

## Tax break for rural co-ops, water districts up

By Frederick H. Brown

**A BILL BRIDGING THE RICHES:** local water districts and electric cooperatives from income tax last passed second reading in the House of Representatives.

According to House Bill 5218, local water districts should not pay income tax because they serve governmental functions. Raising the income tax burden from electric cooperatives, on the other hand, is expected to help bring down the cost of power to the countryside.

give value-added tax exemptions to help reduce power costs.

Under the bill, systems fees charged by electricity generation, transmission and distribution companies to its customers shall be exempted from VST.

The sale of electricity to marginal consumers (households without monthly electricity consumption in 1995 kilowatts, based on load) shall also be increased from 10%.

The bill, which will require amendments to the National Internal Revenue Code, was in response to calls to bring down

Masuda Electric Co., the country's biggest electric power distributor, was scheduled to increase its rates this month, but was stopped by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

The bill also contains provisions not related to water and electric power, such as the proposed exemption from DDT of purchases by associations.

Noncharitable provisions in allowing private firms to deduct 50 percent of the value of their donations to charity-like assets from their taxable income.

This bill is all but dead.

The Department of Finance, however, has expressed reservations over the passage of the bill.

A Finance official said any exemptions cannot under the bill would erode government revenues to the disadvantage of other vital state projects and

Katzen, the GOP said the government could best service the public by collecting more taxes and using the money to fund more social services and other business incentives.

## MPIC expects to close MNTC deal this month

By Elizabeth Souders-Lewis

**WETCO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS**  
Corp. reports to close its acquisition of Manila North Railway Corp., the extension builder for North Luzon Railway, this month.

MFPC sources said the proposed acquisition might be completed as early as next week upon full payment of the purchase price.

chain price of ¥12 billion. The company intends to finance the acquisition with borrowings worth ¥5.5

First Philippine Holdings Corp., the insurance arm

MNTC has the right to operate and manage the existing 83.7-kilometer Nida and the 8.1-km Subic-Tipa Expressway; build, operate and manage Phase 2, which is the construction of the existing link of CI that would connect up to the

Asiatic Development Infrastructure, MDC, is also expanding from Israel.

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Hermina Cifuentes



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Journal of Internal Medicine 255: 105–112

**Billboard**®: Love Rock, first lady Jill Fagan, interview: The Beatles' manager



**Dr. David C. Green**

8		6	5		7
	1			5	
4		1	2		9
5	4			1	2
		3			
1	6			7	9
	7	9	8		4
	2			6	
4		3	6		5

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## HOW TO PLAY

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 2x2 box contains the digits 1 to 4.

The grid appears at [www.usfbl.com](http://www.usfbl.com)

**Answer to question 100**

2	6	1	1	5	8	7	9	4
7	4	8	8	3	8	2	1	8
9	1	5	4	7	2	6	3	6
5	9	7	2	8	4	1	6	3
1	9	2	3	9	7	8	4	8
4	5	8	5	6	1	9	7	2
8	2	1	9	4	8	3	6	7
8	5	4	7	1	3	8	2	9
3	7	8	6	2	5	4	8	1











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## GALLERIA

- 1 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3  
2 MY ONLY D  
3 CITY OF EMBER  
4 THE HOUSE BUNNY  
5 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2
- 6 MAX PAYNE  
7 EAGLE EYE / BODY OF LIES  
8 INSIDE OUT: ALTAIR  
9 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE  
10 TROPIC THUNDER / LIVING HELL

## ERMITA

- 1 THE HOUSE BUNNY  
2 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3  
3 CITY OF EMBER  
4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2  
5 MY ONLY D
- 6 RESERVED  
7 RESERVED  
8 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE / LIVING HELL  
9 MAX PAYNE

## METRO EAST

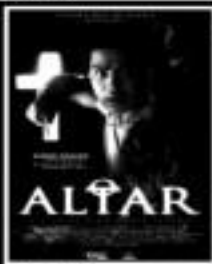
- 1 THE HOUSE BUNNY  
2 CITY OF EMBER  
3 MY ONLY D  
4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
- 5 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE  
6 MAX PAYNE  
7 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2  
8 LIVING HELL

## NOVALICHES

- 1 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3  
2 RESERVE
- 3 THE HOUSE BUNNY  
4 MY ONLY D

## PIONEER

- 1 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3  
2 MY ONLY D
- 3 CITY OF EMBER  
4 THE HOUSE BUNNY



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2 TROPICAL THUNDER  
3 THE HOUSE BUNNY  
4 MY ONLY D
- 5 MAX PAYNE  
6 MY ONLY D  
7 MY ONLY D  
8 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3

## DASMARIÑAS

- 1 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE  
2 THE HOUSE BUNNY  
3 MY ONLY D  
4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
- 5 IMUS  
6 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3  
7 MY ONLY D  
8 THE HOUSE BUNNY  
9 TROPIC THUNDER

## ANGELES

- 1 BODY OF LIES  
2 MY ONLY D
- 3 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3  
4 THE HOUSE BUNNY

## STARMILLS

- 1 THE HOUSE BUNNY  
2 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3  
3 THE STRANGERS
- 4 MY ONLY D  
5 BODY OF LIES  
6 APPALOOSA

## BACLOD

- 1 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3  
2 THE HOUSE BUNNY  
3 MY ONLY D  
4 APPALOOSA  
5 BODY OF LIES  
6 APPALOOSA
- 7 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3  
8 MY ONLY D  
9 APPALOOSA  
4 THE HOUSE BUNNY  
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CITY OF EMBER

**CINEMA 1**  
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3

SEA MONSTER	DINOSAURS	SUPERMAN RETURNS	THE PODIUM	CINEMA 1
1 SEA MONSTER 2 SEA MONSTER 3 SEA MONSTER 4 SEA MONSTER 5 SEA MONSTER 6 SEA MONSTER 7 SEA MONSTER 8 SEA MONSTER 9 SEA MONSTER 10 SEA MONSTER	1 DINOSAURS 2 DINOSAURS 3 DINOSAURS 4 DINOSAURS 5 DINOSAURS 6 DINOSAURS 7 DINOSAURS 8 DINOSAURS 9 DINOSAURS 10 DINOSAURS	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 5 SUPERMAN RETURNS 6 SUPERMAN RETURNS 7 SUPERMAN RETURNS 8 SUPERMAN RETURNS 9 SUPERMAN RETURNS 10 SUPERMAN RETURNS	1 CITY OF EMBER 2 CITY OF EMBER 3 CITY OF EMBER 4 CITY OF EMBER 5 CITY OF EMBER 6 CITY OF EMBER 7 CITY OF EMBER 8 CITY OF EMBER 9 CITY OF EMBER 10 CITY OF EMBER	1 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 2 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 3 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 5 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 6 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 7 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 8 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 9 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 10 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3

## LUZON

SEA MONSTER	DINOSAURS	SUPERMAN RETURNS	THE PODIUM	CINEMA 1
1 SEA MONSTER 2 SEA MONSTER 3 SEA MONSTER 4 SEA MONSTER 5 SEA MONSTER 6 SEA MONSTER 7 SEA MONSTER 8 SEA MONSTER 9 SEA MONSTER 10 SEA MONSTER	1 DINOSAURS 2 DINOSAURS 3 DINOSAURS 4 DINOSAURS 5 DINOSAURS 6 DINOSAURS 7 DINOSAURS 8 DINOSAURS 9 DINOSAURS 10 DINOSAURS	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 5 SUPERMAN RETURNS 6 SUPERMAN RETURNS 7 SUPERMAN RETURNS 8 SUPERMAN RETURNS 9 SUPERMAN RETURNS 10 SUPERMAN RETURNS	1 CITY OF EMBER 2 CITY OF EMBER 3 CITY OF EMBER 4 CITY OF EMBER 5 CITY OF EMBER 6 CITY OF EMBER 7 CITY OF EMBER 8 CITY OF EMBER 9 CITY OF EMBER 10 CITY OF EMBER	1 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 2 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 3 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 5 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 6 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 7 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 8 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 9 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 10 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3

## VISAYAS - MINDANAO

SEA MONSTER	DINOSAURS	SUPERMAN RETURNS	THE PODIUM	CINEMA 1
1 SEA MONSTER 2 SEA MONSTER 3 SEA MONSTER 4 SEA MONSTER 5 SEA MONSTER 6 SEA MONSTER 7 SEA MONSTER 8 SEA MONSTER 9 SEA MONSTER 10 SEA MONSTER	1 DINOSAURS 2 DINOSAURS 3 DINOSAURS 4 DINOSAURS 5 DINOSAURS 6 DINOSAURS 7 DINOSAURS 8 DINOSAURS 9 DINOSAURS 10 DINOSAURS	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 5 SUPERMAN RETURNS 6 SUPERMAN RETURNS 7 SUPERMAN RETURNS 8 SUPERMAN RETURNS 9 SUPERMAN RETURNS 10 SUPERMAN RETURNS	1 CITY OF EMBER 2 CITY OF EMBER 3 CITY OF EMBER 4 CITY OF EMBER 5 CITY OF EMBER 6 CITY OF EMBER 7 CITY OF EMBER 8 CITY OF EMBER 9 CITY OF EMBER 10 CITY OF EMBER	1 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 2 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 3 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 5 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 6 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 7 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 8 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 9 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 10 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3

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ALESSANDRA de Rossi

JENNIFER Morrison

# Mark and Jennylyn 'together' again

MARK KERRAS AND JENNYLYN Morrison are working together again. "Kerry after me, suddenly, it's 'Ah,' Mark said. 'This is not the same thing you did when we were...'"

Doesn't he have a plan of working together? "Kerry after me, suddenly, it's 'Ah,' Mark said. 'This is not the same thing you did when we were...'"

Like a winner

Has Gabele almost made it to the final? "Kerry after me, suddenly, it's 'Ah,' Mark said. 'This is not the same thing you did when we were...'"

## DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Gosselin



It's been 10 years, and she's still going strong. "Kerry after me, suddenly, it's 'Ah,' Mark said. 'This is not the same thing you did when we were...'"

### Delisted number

I asked Jennifer Morrison for the name of the show that she said it was... "Kerry after me, suddenly, it's 'Ah,' Mark said. 'This is not the same thing you did when we were...'"

### Barbie with

Papa! Morrison moved the card... "Kerry after me, suddenly, it's 'Ah,' Mark said. 'This is not the same thing you did when we were...'"

### Solo concert

After the success of South... "Kerry after me, suddenly, it's 'Ah,' Mark said. 'This is not the same thing you did when we were...'"

### New sister

I asked Alessandra de Rossi... "Kerry after me, suddenly, it's 'Ah,' Mark said. 'This is not the same thing you did when we were...'"

### Sans and KC?

Could it be that the... "Kerry after me, suddenly, it's 'Ah,' Mark said. 'This is not the same thing you did when we were...'"

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